

Showers Tonight; Saturday Fair.

# The Washington Times

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## DEMANDS PROBE OF SNOBBERY AT NAVAL ACADEMY

Representative From Indiana Threatens to Take Beers Case to Congress.

### HAS ASKED MEYER FOR AN EXPLANATION

Proposes a Full Investigation of General Conduct At Annapolis.

The alleged snobbery at the Naval Academy, as a result of which it is claimed that Miss Mary H. Beers, a nurse in an officer's home, was given to understand that her presence was not desired at the Academy hops, is to be brought to the attention of Congress unless the Navy Department is able to furnish a satisfactory explanation.

Representative Korbly, an Indiana Democrat, has written Secretary Meyer asking that he investigate that peculiar social system at the Academy that makes unwelcome at a social function an estimable and talented girl who happens to be earning her own living.

#### Harsh Criticism.

If the Secretary is unable to justify or deny the alleged occurrence, Mr. Korbly will bring the Beers affair to the official attention of the House itself and an investigation of the Academy, its general conduct and its social life probably will be ordered.

Representative Korbly made public a letter which he received today from former Attorney General W. H. H. Miller, who served under the Harrison Administration, and who harshly criticizes the snobbery said to exist at the Naval Academy. Speaking of the reports of the Beers incident, the former Attorney General says:

"I want to commend you for your action touching upon the recent alleged snobbery at the Naval Academy, where reports are being made that a young woman has been made to feel unwelcome at a social function because she was earning her own living."

#### No Money From Congress.

"If this is true, I think that the occurrence cannot be rebuffed too severely, and it seems to me that not another dollar should be voted by Congress for the support of that institution until every man who was a party to the contemptible business, if connected with the Navy, is sent to sea duty."

"If the facts are as reported, nothing that is so contemptible has occurred in our public service, within my recollection."

Mr. Korbly, who is now awaiting the reply of the Secretary of the Navy before he takes any further action, said today:

"I presume that Secretary Meyer is now investigating this matter and that I will hear from him within a short time. The Secretary, no doubt, feels embarrassed over the incident. If I do not get a satisfactory explanation, I shall feel obliged to refer to the matter on the floor of the House and probably will ask an investigation."

#### Will Not Mince Words.

"The letter from former Attorney General Miller is one of many which I have received since I voiced my protest as to the alleged discrimination against Miss Beers. There has been more or less talk in the past concerning the snobbery said to exist in naval circles at Annapolis, and incidents such as this cannot have a good effect upon Congress or anyone else. If compelled to bring the matter to the attention of the House, I do not propose to mince words."

The young woman whose social ostracism, it is alleged, was attempted by one or more officers of the Academy, is the daughter of Prof. Beers, the head of the English department at Yale University for many years.

#### Student Body Dissatisfied.

Miss Beers was employed in the family of Lieutenant Tarrant, at Annapolis, her employment being as a friend of Mrs. Tarrant and a governess for the Tarrant children. She was a favorite at the Academy hops until one evening her escort was given a strong hint by one of the officers that the presence of Miss Beers was not desired at these functions, inasmuch as it was alleged that her social position could not pass the test prescribed by the future admirals and captains.

It is claimed, however, that the student body did not approve of the slight and that invitations to the annual June ball probably will rain upon Miss Beers. Meanwhile, there are indications today that Congress itself may be drawn into a discussion of what society consists of at the United States Naval Academy, and the case of Miss Beers may assume relatively more important publicity.

## WEATHER REPORT.

FORECAST FOR THE DISTRICT. Showers tonight; Saturday fair and cooler.

### TEMPERATURES.

8 a. m.	56	12 noon.	59
9 a. m.	57	1 p. m.	59
10 a. m.	58	2 p. m.	59
11 a. m.	59		

### TIDE TABLE.

Today—High tide, 8:42 a. m. and 9:17 p. m.; low tide, 2:52 a. m. and 3:30 p. m. Tomorrow—High tide, 9:29 a. m. and 9:56 p. m.; low tide, 3:29 a. m. and 4 p. m.

### SUN TABLE.

Sun rises, 6:22; Sun sets, 6:37.

## Famous Actor Dies



DENMAN THOMPSON, Noted Playwright, Whose Joshua Whitcomb Pleaded for Quarter Century.

## DENMAN THOMPSON, ACTOR, SUCCEUMS TO LONG ILLNESS

Creator of Joshua Whitcomb In "The Old Homestead" Passes Away.

WEST SWANSEY, N. H., April 14.—Denman Thompson, the Joshua Whitcomb of "The Old Homestead," known from one end of the country to the other as the kind, lovable, and forgiving old farmer, died here today after a long illness. He was seventy-eight years old.

Thompson was born in Beechwood, Pa., in 1833. He ran away with a circus when seventeen years old, and a few months later began his histrionic career as a "super" in Charlotte Cushman's company at the Howard Athenaeum, in Boston.

In 1854, he joined the Royal Lyceum Theatre, in Toronto, and remained there for fourteen years. He left the stage for a few years, but returned to it in 1875, when he began the evolution of his famous "Uncle Josh" character.

"The Old Homestead," it is estimated, had gross receipts of \$100,000. Thompson was the oldest actor active in the United States. His last engagement was in Philadelphia, where he played to a crowded house. Thompson first appeared as Joshua nearly a quarter of a century ago. Last year he appeared in vaudeville, but his return to the play had been his for a generation was inevitable. There are few instances in the history of the American stage where a man and the character he presents have become inseparable, but there are many people who could not have told readily whether Denman Thompson was the man and Joshua Whitcomb the character, or vice versa.

The Denman Thompson of the New Hampshire farm was the Joshua Whitcomb of the stage. He told on the boards the tale of the man who was simple and who believed in right for rights sake; who loved to be helpful and to do good, and who could not see why the morals of the city should be different from those of the country. He found the common ground between his village and New York in the hymn that floated from the windows of Grace Church, and the human touch in the man who helped as a tramp in New Hampshire and who was reformed and became a worthy citizen on Broadway.

In his time he played many parts, and there is little doubt that he would have been prominent on the stage even if he had not found "The Old Homestead."

## TROOPS CALLED OUT TO QUELL STRIKERS

Button Workers Attack Special Officers in Muscatine, Iowa.

## MUSCATINE, IOWA, April 14.—

Martial law was declared today when companies of State troops from Davenport arrived to quell the rioting which began last night because of the arrival of twenty-five imported special officers from Chicago and St. Louis, imported by the owners of the button factories to awe 300 strikers. After a reign of terror, during which windows were broken and many men assaulted, the sheriff asked Governor Carroll to send troops.

The twenty-five imported special officers and detectives who had been besieged in their hotel by an angry mob of several hundred strikers, were relieved of their clubs and police stuns today and taken to the depot and sent out of town. Since then quiet has prevailed.

## HILL RESIGNS; CAN'T AFFORD TO BE AMBASSADOR

This Is Believed to Be Reason He Is Leaving Post In Germany.

### HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN POTASH CASE

President Agrees to Relieve Him In July, and Commends His Conduct of Office.

The resignation of Dr. David Jayne Hill, American ambassador to Germany, has been tendered to the President, and it has been accepted.

This resignation, which will take effect on the 1st of July, was announced at the White House this morning, when the ambassador's letter to the President and his reply to it were given out.

Dr. Hill does not explain why he should retire from this important mission, in the letter which he wrote to the President. He simply said that he had been willing to resign at the beginning of the Taft Administration, but that he had stayed at the request of the President.

#### Congratulated By Taft.

He pointed out that he had already served two years under the Taft Administration, and that he was now willing to resign. In replying, the President congratulated Dr. Hill upon his work at Berlin, and asked him to remain at his post until the 1st of July.

Dr. Hill was named for the German mission by President Roosevelt during the latter part of his Administration. He succeeded Charlesman Tower. At the time of the appointment there was considerable gossip in the German and American newspapers to the effect that Dr. Hill would not be welcomed to Berlin by the Emperor because the doctor was not a rich man.

These papers pointed out that previous ambassadors to Germany had been men of great wealth and had entertained lavishly. Dr. Hill, who is not wealthy, it was said, would not be cordially received in the German capital. This turned out, however, to be a mistake. Dr. Hill with all the courtesy that could have been expected under any circumstances.

#### Important Negotiations.

Since he went to Germany the ambassador has been called on to negotiate a settlement of the potash question with the German government. These negotiations have not been closed, but it is intimated that the Germans have carried their point and that the American claimants have lost. This came out when the announcement was made that the commercial interests of the two countries were going to settle the matter "out of court."

It is suggested today that the real reason why Dr. Hill has resigned is that the cost of maintaining the embassy upon his former scale was too heavy a strain upon him financially and that he had decided to resign. Dr. Hill is the guest in Washington of John W. Foster, but spent the day in New York. He came to the country to deliver a course of lectures at Columbia University and to confer with the officials of the State Department as to the future of this country with regard to the potash question.

#### Assistant Secretary of State.

In 1908 Dr. Hill was appointed Assistant Secretary of State. In 1903 he was the two letters given out at the White House today are as follows: The appointed minister to Switzerland, in 1905 he went to the Netherlands, and in 1908 he was promoted to be ambassador to Germany.

#### Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to remind you that at the beginning of your term of office as President I expressed to the Secretary of State my readiness to terminate my mission as ambassador to Germany which your predecessor had entrusted to me. I desire soon after to communicate to me in person your wish that I should continue at that post, and I was very happy, especially in view of the short time I had been at Berlin, to receive this mark of your confidence.

The half of your administration having already passed, it appears to me fitting that I should express to you my grateful appreciation of the consideration you have shown me, and that I should at this time place my resignation in your hands, to take effect July first next, which I now do, in order that, if you desire to do so, you may be able to make another appointment to that post.

It has been a great pleasure to me to serve my country in this honorable and highly responsible office, which I have endeavored to fill to the best of my ability.

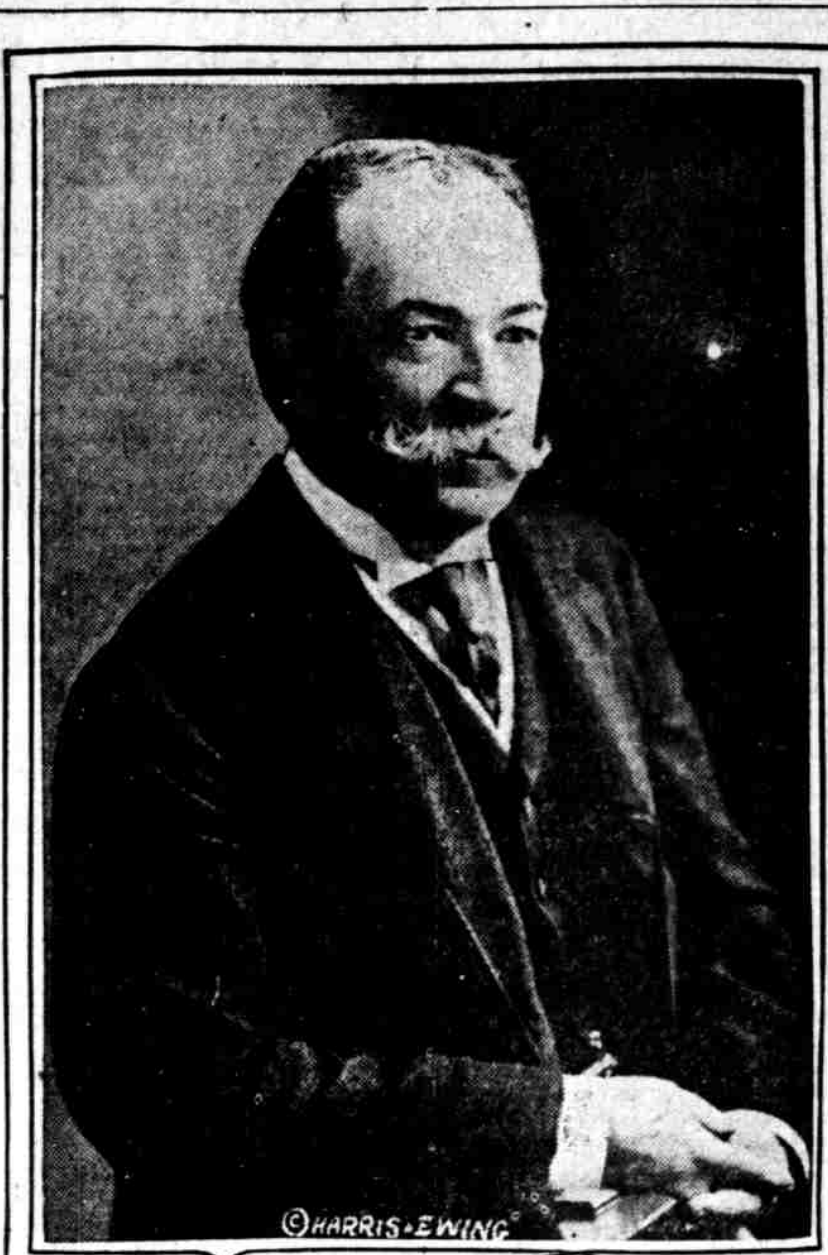
Please to accept, dear Mr. President, the assurance of my great appreciation of your confidence in me, and of my loyal sentiments. Your obedient servant, DAVID J. HILL.

The President's reply says: My Dear Mr. Ambassador:

In acknowledging your letter of the 13th instant, it is with great reluctance that I accept your resignation and relieve you of a mission which you have discharged in a manner so highly appreciable, both as to the actual work of the embassy and as to your relations to the government to which you are accredited.

I am glad that it will be convenient to you to retain your post until the first of next July, and I remain, my dear Dr. Hill, with renewed expressions of appreciation and with every good wish, Very sincerely yours, WM. H. TAFT.

## Cost Him Too Much to Be Ambassador



DR. DAVID JAYNE HILL, Whose Resignation From German Embassy Has Been Reluctantly Accepted by the President.

## PRESIDENT IS COURT OF LAST RESORT TO RETIRING OFFICERS

No Appeal From Ruling, Says Justice In Moser Case.

The President has sole discretion to retire army and navy officers at increased rank and pay, according to a decision given today by Justice Barnard of the District Supreme Court, declaring there is no appeal from the ruling of the Chief Executive except by special act of Congress.

Justice Barnard dismissed the mandamus suit of Capt. Jefferson F. Moser, U. S. N., retired, of San Francisco, who sought registry and pay as a rear admiral. Captain Moser is refused a writ of mandamus and left to prosecute his claim before the Court of Claims, without the hope of being registered as a rear admiral in the Navy Register.

Secretary of the Navy George L. Von Meyer resisted Captain Moser's suit, Assistant District Attorney Hudekoper appearing for the Government. He declared the retirement order of Captain Moser of September 23, 1904, made by President Roosevelt, did not order his designation as a retired rear admiral.

The Government is sustained upon all points of its contention by Justice Barnard, who says Captain Moser may secure the pay of a rear admiral through the Court of Claims, but cannot claim that rank.

Captain Moser served forty years in the navy, entering Annapolis in 1864. He claimed his service as a cadet during the civil war entitled him to increased pay and rank upon retirement, specifically denied by the act of Congress governing retirements and giving discretionary power to the President.

"I am forced to conclude," the President intended his retirement at the rank and pay he then held, or he would have directed otherwise," says Justice Barnard in his decision.

## Wine Riots Cause of Airship Accidents

EPERNAVY, April 14.—The wine riots resulted in two aeroplane accidents today, when two machines, piloted by army officers, fell.

Neither aviator was hurt, although their machines were badly damaged. The officers were bringing orders from the corps commander to the troops on duty in the disturbed districts. Dubois and Lagache, two of the leaders of the rioters, were arrested today. They are accused of making false representations to the wine growers, causing them to go to far greater extremes than they otherwise would have done.

## Ball Game Postponed Because of Rain.

Because of the rain the game between the Boston and Washington teams, scheduled for today, has been postponed.

Manager McAleer said this afternoon that Walter Johnson will probably pitch tomorrow's game.

R. R. Colan, Upholsterer, P. M. 618.

## AMERICANS ON MEXICAN BORDER IN GRAVE DANGER

May Be Forced to Flee From Homes By Fighting Along International Line.

## REBELS HOLD CUSTOMS HOUSE AND NOW EXPECT RECOGNITION

The real crisis of the Mexican situation was reached today when authoritative dispatches to the State Department were received telling that not only are American citizens in Mexican territory in grave danger, but that residents of American border line towns may be forced to flee their homes.

One of these dispatches was from J. S. Douglas, a prominent citizen of Douglas, Ariz., where three Americans were killed and nine wounded during the fight between federals and revolutionists at Agua Prieta. It contained the information that "further and even more serious trouble is feared."

All along the United States Government has insisted that the federal government of Mexico afford proper protection to Americans and their interests. That this is not being done is obvious. The result is easy to foresee.

Further evidence of the nearness of a crisis in the situation is seen in the comparative ease with which the revolutionists took Agua Prieta, where the custom house is located. State Department officials are anything but talkative when questioned as to the results of the custom house being in the hands of revolutionists.

A well-known international lawyer of Washington, however, vouchsafes the theory that there is nothing for United States custom house officials to do but to transact business with the rebel officials who are in charge of the Mexican custom house.

In other words officials of this Government are today, for the first time since the outbreak of the Mexican revolution, treating in an official way with officials of the Maderist government.

Added to these facts are advices received, not by the revolutionist junta here, but by the United States State Department, to the effect that the long deferred attack on Juarez, across from El Paso, and where the most important customs house on the American border line is located, is expected at any moment.

## EL PASO CITIZENS NOW IN DANGER.

According to the official State Department dispatches a force of some 2,000 rebels, well armed, with the latest army rifles, and with many thousands of rounds of smokeless powder, are within four hours march of Juarez. Included in the force of 2,000 rebels are some sixty or eighty expert machine gun men in charge of three machine guns, and a squad of trained artillerymen with two six-pounder cannon.

The State Department advices, which are sent by Consul Edwards, stationed at Ciudad Juarez, bear the information, that although the federal forces at that town are strongly entrenched, they are outnumbered more than four to one, and can hardly be expected to stand a well directed attack. American citizens living in Juarez have already moved their belongings to the American side.

But the danger is not only in Juarez, it was pointed out today. The same danger that resulted in the death of the three persons at Douglas, Arizona, and caused many to fly from the town, threatened the town of El Paso. Great anxiety is felt in the latter city, and reports from there are to the effect that prominent citizens and municipal officials will prevail upon their representatives in Congress to urge this government to act.

#### Government's Attitude.

While this Government could not stop a fight without involving itself deeply, its officials could urge rebels and federals to agree to an armistice and discuss the fixing of a neutral zone which would prevent fighting so close to the border line as to be dangerous to El Paso citizens.

In explaining this phase of the situation today an official of the War Department denied the reports from Arizona that American soldiers had crossed into Agua Prieta and asked the town, fighting being stopped because of the death of three Americans at Douglas, Ariz.

According to the revolutionary agents in Washington, the capture of Agua Prieta cannot be overestimated. They say the taking of the place at this time is second in importance to a possible taking of Mexico City itself. One of the insurgent junta here declared the capture marked a long step in advance by the rebels, and was second in importance to the capture of Mexico City, itself.

#### Gateway to Mexico.

He pointed out that all along the insurrectionary party has been hampered by the impossibility of shipping arms, things through the customs houses. It is just across the Rio Grande from the city of Presidio, Tex., citizens are said to have today openly backed the revolutionists in the very facts of the federal garrison there.

This is of deep importance, in view of the fact that the revolutionists are now in a position to capture the city of El Paso, which is just across the Rio Grande from the city of Presidio, Tex., citizens are said to have today openly backed the revolutionists in the very facts of the federal garrison there.

So far as this Government is concerned it cannot presume to prevent shipments through the customs houses, because the revolutionists hold the custom house. It will simply have to look on whoever is in actual charge of the customs as the de facto officials of it and entitled to collect the revenues.

And the capture of Agua Prieta means even more than all this. It has changed the fear of Mexicans who were afraid to voice sentiments favorable to the revolutionists that at Ojinaga, which is just across the Rio Grande from the city of Presidio, Tex., citizens are said to have today openly backed the revolutionists in the very facts of the federal garrison there.

## White House Callers.

SENATOR Young, Iowa. REPRESENTATIVES Mann, Ill. Mondell, Wyo. Wedmeyer, Mich. Calder, N. Y. Hayes, Cal. OTHER VISITORS Former Senator Hemenway, Ind. Delegate Cameron, Ark. Gen. Powell Clayton, Ark. Capt. Staley Landray.